

10/49/

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FRP: . . . 4 . . .

STATE

25X1

82 8001126 SCC

PAGE 001

NC 8001126

TOR: 130537Z FEB 82

25X1

DD RUEA11B
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
DD RUEHC
DE RUEHC #9291 0440536
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O P 130055Z FEB 82
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 0000
INFO RUEKJCS/ SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY 0000
RUHQHQA/ CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY 0000
RUADJNA/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 039291

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, JA, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL LETTER TO PM SUZUKI ON DEFENSE

REF: FEATHERSTONE/FARRAR TELCON 2/12/82

1. FOLLOWING REPTELCON, DEPARTMENT BECAME AWARE OF LETTER
TO PRIME MINISTER SUZUKI SIGNED BY REP. PAUL TRIBLE (VA.)
AND 65 OTHER HOUSE MEMBERS CONCERNING JAPAN'S DEFENSE
EFFORTS. TEXT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE:

HIS EXCELLENCY
ZENKO SUZUKI
THE PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN
TOKYO, JAPAN

DEAR MISTER PRIME MINISTER:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

82 8001126

SC0

PAGE 002

NC 8001126

TOR: 130537Z FEB 82

WE ARE WRITING TO EXPRESS OUR HOPE THAT JAPAN WILL INCREASE ITS COMMITMENT TO THE DEFENSE OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WEINBERGER RECENTLY EXPRESSED THE CONCERNS AND SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REAGAN

ADMINISTRATION ABOUT THE DEFENSE OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC. WE WISH TO IMPRESS ON YOU THAT THESE CONCERNS ARE SHARED BY MANY MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS. WE BELIEVE THAT JAPAN SHOULD ASSUME PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE AIRSPACE AND SEALANES UP TO A THOUSAND MILES FROM THE JAPANESE SHORELINE.

THE UNITED STATES NOW SPENDS MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT OF ITS GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT ON DEFENSE, WHILE JAPAN SPENDS LESS THAN ONE PERCENT. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOUR COUNTRY COMMIT A GREATER PERCENTAGE OF YOUR GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT TO DEFENSE IF OUR MUTUAL SECURITY IS TO BE ASSURED.

WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY YOUR GOVERNMENT'S RECENT DECISION TO INCREASE REAL DEFENSE SPENDING BY 4.5 PERCENT IN THE COMING YEAR, AND WE HOPE THIS DECISION REFLECTS A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT TO DO SUBSTANTIALLY MORE TO STRENGTHEN YOUR DEFENSE CAPABILITIES.

THE THREAT TO THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION FROM THE SOVIET UNION HAS INCREASED DRAMATICALLY DURING THE PAST DECADE. THE SOVIET PACIFIC FLEET HAS BEEN RAPIDLY TRANSFORMED FROM A COASTAL NAVY TO A FIRMIDABLE BLUE-WATER FORCE OF MORE THAN 190 COMBATANTS. THIS SOVIET BUILDUP HAS OCCURRED AT A TIME WHEN THE PACIFIC SEALANES ARE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT TO JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES AS WE LOOK TO FOREIGN MARKETS FOR THE OIL AND STRATEGIC MATERIALS UPON WHICH OUR ECONOMIES DEPEND. THIS UNPRECEDENTED SOVIET NAVAL BUILDUP CANNOT BE IGNORED.

THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN MUST EQUITABLY SHARE THE BURDEN OF MEETING THIS THREAT TO PEACE AND FREEDOM, AND WE MUST NOT DELAY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

STATE

82 8001126

SCU

PAGE 003

NC 8001126

TOR: 130537Z FEB 82

SINCERELY,

PAUL TRIBLE
TRENT LOTT
FRANK R. WOLF
ROBERT J. LAGOMARSINO
G. WILLIAM WHITEHURST
ROBERT W. DANIEL, JR.
NEWT GINGRICH
JAMES A. COURTER
G. V. MONTGOMERY
JOEL PRITCHARD
DENNY SMITH
CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
RALPH REGULA

HAL DAUB
MICKEY EDWARDS
TOM CORCORAN
RICHARD SCHULZE
HENRY J. HYDE
DAVID DREIER
FREDERICK W. RICHMOND
JOHN HILER
JAMES L. NELLIGAN
HAMILTON FISH, JR.
DOUGLAS K. BEREUTER
DAN MARRIOTT
JACK FIELDS
RAY KOGOVSEK
DAVID MICK STATON
ANDREW JACOBS, JR.
THOMAS F. HARTNETT
ANTONIO WON PAT
BOB STUMP
BEVERLY B. BYRON
KEN KRAMER
EARL HUTTO
DUNCAN HUNTER
DAN DANIEL
DANIEL E. LUNGREN

CONFIDENTIAL

STATE

82 8001126

SCC

PAGE 004

NC 8001126

TOR: 130537Z FEB 82

GERALD B. SOLOMON
DAVID MCCURDY
BUD HILLIS
DAVID F. EMERY
TOM BLILEY
BOB BADHAM
TOM COLEMAN
DONALD J. MITCHELL
CHARLES F. DOUGHERTY
DAVID O'B. MARTIN
J. KENNETH ROBINSON
BOB WALKER
EUGENE JOHNSTON
JAMES K. COYNE
MICHAEL OXLEY
FLOYD SPENCE
VIC FAZIO
JOHN EDWARD PORTER
HAROLD ROGERS
NORMAN DICKS
LARRY WINN
ROBIN BEARD
RONNYDEN
BARRY M. GOLDWATER, JR.
ROY DYSON
JACK KEMP
CLAIR W. BURGNER
WILLIAM J. HUGHES
DON H. CLAUSEN
ERRY HUCKABY

NQUOTE.

. ORIGINAL OF LETTER WAS SENT TO EMBASSY VIA APO ON
FEB 11. TRIBLE'S OFFICE REGRETS ISSUING THE RELEASE
PRIOR TO THE LETTER'S DELIVERY. WE HAVE GIVEN A COPY
OF TRIBLE'S LETTER TO THE JAPANESE EMBASSY.

TOESSEL

ND OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL